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SOURCE Rzeczpospolita.WOMEN TO ENTER CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

The chemical industry expects to employ almost 80 percent women by the end of the Six-Year Plan. This ambitious plan is economically important for two reasons: it will provide mass employment for women in production and will release men for such industries as coal, metallurgy, etc.

The mass employment of women in the chemical industry requires a gigantic training program. The enrollment of women in the schools and training centers of the chemical industry must increase in proportion to the planned employment. Already one fourth of the total number of students in these schools and centers is women. This figure will have to increase at least threefold in the next few years.

In the 5 years of their operation, the vocational schools in Poland have proved that women are capable students. Statistics show that more men fail in periodic examinations than women. Of the 60 students in a college of chemistry last year, 20 were women; 24 failed in the examinations but only two of these were women.

The director of the training program claims that it is entirely possible to supply the great number of personnel needed by the chemical industry. The number of colleges of chemistry will be increased from 6 to 14 in the very near future and will supply an adequate number of women technicians. The short-term training courses will simultaneously supply thousands of qualified women workers. It is apparent that the short-term course will not give the girls the same education as the 3-year vocational courses, but since the courses are highly specialized, valuable workers will be obtained for the industry.

Many problems must be solved. The school curricula have not been worked out and the schools desperately need textbooks and equipment. Until recently, the school curricula of the chemical industry included more courses in mechanics than in chemistry. In 1948 - 1949, the training division of the CZPCh (Central Administration of the Chemical Industry) set up makeshift laboratories in their schools. These laboratories need equipment.

- 1 -

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The program committee of the chemical industry's education division has not yet received the funds it requested from the CUSZ (Central Administration of Vocational Training) and cannot depend on the CUSZ to publish the program of studies by September 1950.

The CZPCCh division of education has shown great initiative but it must have more authority and more freedom of operation to solve the problems which are better known to them than to the central education authorities.

Training centers must have adequate funds at the proper time if the entire purpose of the centers is not to be nullified. The center in Slawieencie near Kedzierzyna must soon have at least 200 million zlotys to enlarge and complete its buildings by fall to handle the 250 students according to plan.

It is anticipated that the chemical industry will be the second largest industry in Poland. The deciding factor in its development is manpower, and proper steps must be taken to supply it.

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- 2 -

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